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State of Maine  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

March 18, 2014

Henry Jennings, Director, Board of Pesticides Control  
Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
28 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0028

Dear Mr. Jennings,

Earlier this session, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) voted unanimously "ought not to pass" on the above referenced bill. LD 1678 proposed to prohibit the use of methoprene and resmethrin, two chemicals used for mosquito control, in any body of water that drains into the Gulf of Maine or on land from which runoff could enter into any such waterway. While the ACF Committee did not agree with the proposed course of this legislation, we commend the sponsor for bringing this issue forward.

In written testimony, the sponsor of LD 1678, Representative Kumiega, expressed concerned about the negative impact methoprene and resmethrin may have on lobster populations. According to the University of Maine's Lobster Institute, Maine is the nation's largest lobster producer – bringing in over three-quarters of the nation's catch. The total impact of Maine's lobster industry on the state economy is approximately \$1.7 billion.

It is our understanding that the Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) has volunteered to convene an Environmental Risk Advisory Committee (ERAC) to look at all pesticides and assess potential adverse impacts of pesticide use on the state's lobster resource. We also understand that BPC, in collaboration with the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), will begin identifying high priority areas for sampling to identify which pesticides are most prevalent in the marine environment.

We respectfully request that BPC provide the ACF Committee an interim report by January 2015 and a final report by January 2017 on the work of the ERAC and on the results of BPC and DMR sampling efforts. Thank you for your efforts on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Eloise A. Vitelli.

Sen. Eloise A. Vitelli, Senate Chair

Handwritten signature of James F. Dill.

Rep. James F. Dill, House Chair

Cc: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources  
Hon. Walter Whitcomb, Commissioner, DACF  
Patrick C. Keliher, Commissioner, DMR  
Representative Walter Kumiega